UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/770
20 September 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ZAIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the press release issued on 20 September 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the situation in Burundi.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAJI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zaire wishes to inform both national and international opinion of the following:

1. In their statements, the perpetrators of the coup d'état that brought Major Pierre Buyoya to power in Burundi on 25 July 1996 announced a number of decisions to normalize the situation, including:

- the re-establishment of the National Assembly formed from the free, transparent and democratic elections held in 1993;

- the resumption of activities of the political parties duly recognized in that country.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to announce that the Government of Zaire has taken note of these decisions, which reflect to a certain extent the will expressed by the States of the Great Lakes region at the Arusha Summit.

3. While it considers these decisions to be an encouraging step towards the restoration of the overthrown institutional and democratic order, the Government nevertheless believes that the most important step that can lead to true peace in Burundi continues to be the establishment of a direct, frank and constructive dialogue among all the elements of Burundian society.

Since this dialogue is not yet a reality in Burundi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the Government is continuing to abide by the resolution of the Arusha Summit declaring an embargo against this neighbouring country until further notice.

Kinshasa, 20 September 1996